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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,540	11/19/2003	John West	372149-343498	5587
38552	7590	09/27/2005	EXAMINER	
DECHERT LLP (WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE)			CARIASO, ALAN B	
1775 I STREET, NW			ART UNIT	
WASHINGTON, DC 20006			PAPER NUMBER	
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/715,540

Applicant(s)

WEST ET AL.

Examiner

Alan Cariaso

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on April 2, 2004. These drawings are objected for the following reasons below.
2. Figure 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the multiple LED emitter (claims 7 and 11) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet,

and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 6 and 7, "The light curing apparatus" has no antecedent basis.

6. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus type claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1, 2 and 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by NICHOLS et al (US 4,767,172).

9. NICHOLS discloses a light guide (fig.4) comprising an entrance area (40, fig.2), a lens (32), at least one reflector (34a, fig.2), a light pipe (34,46,48) and an exit area (right end of 34 in fig.2 or bottom end of 48 in fig.3); the light guide is comprised of acrylic, plastic or glass (col.3, lines 17-19); an apparatus comprising a light source (28) and a light guide (26,34,46) for transmitting light from said light source (28), said light guide comprising an entrance (40), a lens (32), at least one reflector (43a), a light pipe (34,46) and an exit area (right end fig.2, bottom end fig.3); wherein the light source (28) is LED (col.3, line 16); wherein the light source is a multiple LED emitter (figs.3 & 7); as best understood of claims 8-11, an apparatus similar to that in the figures, comprising an LED light source (28) or multiple LED emitter (fig.7) and light guide (figs. 2-4).

10. Regarding claim 2, which recites "injection molded", please note that the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-

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process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Therefore, this (i.e. method) limitation has not been given patentable weight.

11. In regards to claims 6 and 7, the recitation "the light curing" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

12. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by TAKAHASHI (US 4,730,909).

13. TAKAHASHI disclose a multi-piece light guide (figs.3 & 4) comprising an entrance area (2a), at least one reflector (2b, 2c) and lens (L) all functionally attached to an image conduit (P) by a metal sleeve (T).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over TAKAHASHI (US 4,730,909).

16. TAKAHASHI discloses the claimed invention including at least the entrance area (2a), at least one reflector (2b,2c) and lens (L, col.2, lines 37-40) formed as a secured integral unit (fig.3) of glass (col.3, lines 37-38). However, TAKAHASHI does not disclose them molded in a single glass part. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the multi-piece light guide of TAKAHASHI with a molded single glass part that includes at least the entrance area, reflector and lens, since it has been held (*In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965)) that making in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in multiple pieces involves only routine skill in the art. One would have been motivated to mold an integral piece of the reflector-lens part so as to avoid the step of securing or welding separate pieces that would cause any unintended optical misalignment of the light guide optical system.

Conclusion

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. SWANSON (US 2,362,175) shows a lamp module (1, figs.1-4) attached to a conduit (3,4,12-15,27-30,41,42) by sleeves (7,8,20-23,35-38,45,46), the module (figs.5 & 6) having an entrance area (around light source 49), lens (convex protrusions around light source 49) and reflective surfaces (triangular spaces) that

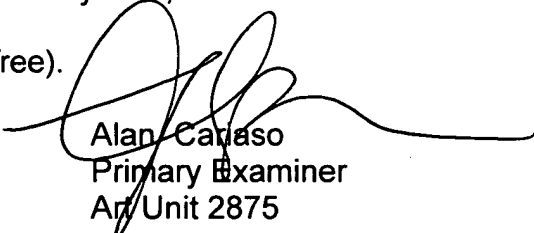
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define a common transparent piece. YANEZ (US 4,883,333, figs.2-4) shows solid optical reflectors (7,8) with light source (2, that can be LED array or discharge lamp, col.4, lines 33-35), integral with a lens (10) and light pipe (11). SAYERS (US 6,527,411) show plural emitting diodes coupled with light pipes (30,32) each having coupling ends that include integral reflector and lens parts (figs.7-11). BECKER (US 2003/0081430 A1) shows LED curing light device that includes a light guide or conduit coupled to an LED light source (50) through a lens (42) and sleeve (12).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan Cariaso whose telephone number is (571) 272-2366. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alan Cariaso
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2875

September 22, 2005